



October 18, 2010

CDCR Launches Inmate Locator Web Page - Provides Easy Search Function

CDCR recently launched the Inmate Locator web page, an online data base designed to help family members find an inmate in California's prison system.

"Inmates who stay connected with family members are often more motivated to change their behavior which leads to an overall increase in public safety," said CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate. "This new tool will make it more convenient for the public to locate, write and visit incarcerated family members and friends."

Inmates in California are transferred from prison to prison for a number of reasons, including for their own protection, protection of other inmates or staff, or a change in their custody level. The data base, which is updated weekly, helps concerned family members keep track of an inmate's whereabouts.



The inmate database is updated regularly to ensure accuracy.

"This will be a tremendous benefit for families to remain in contact with an incarcerated family member," said CDCR Associate Director Debra Herndon, who oversees the Department's inmate family council.

"Not only does it help the inmate, but it also helps children connect with a parent who may be in prison."

Visitors to the website can search by

an inmate's name or CDC number to learn in which institution the inmate is currently housed and driving directions. The website also includes helpful links on visitation guidelines.

CDCR institutions receive many visitors.

For example, in 2009, nearly 656,000 individuals visited inmates at the various institutions. On average, approximately 56,000 individuals visited inmates at CDCR institutions and camps every month.

Before traveling, visitors should contact the institution for current visiting information. If the offender's location cannot be found on the web page, the public should contact the Department's Identification Unit at (916) 445-6713. Historical information and release dates are not available.

To visit the Inmate Locator page, go to CDCR's home page at www.cdcr.ca.gov.

Arthritis Foundation Benefits from Soledad Inmate Walkathon

More than 600 inmates from Correctional Training Facility (CTF) participated in a yard walk for arthritis research led by the Arthritis Foundation.

Leading by example, Warden Randy Grounds led the way with Chief Deputy Warden (Ret.) Dave Bacigalupo, Vice Principal Kevin Kessler, Coach M. Dougherty, and Community Partnership Manager Carol Grisotti. These staff members walked the yards with the inmate participants.

Altogether, inmates donated more than \$1,000. According to research, this participation from inmates is the first time CDCR inmates have participated and donated without an expectation of something in return.

Recently retired Chief Deputy Warden Bacigalupo worked in conjunction with Warden Randy Grounds and Associate



Walkathon participants pose with facility staff.

Warden Bill Wilson to get inmates involved in this fundraiser.

"The concept was to introduce activities like this. Some of our inmates are returning to their communities, and

it's a way for them to do the right thing. Our goal is to do this yearly and introduce different organizations to adopt," said Bacigalupo, "It's always good to see the inmate population doing something positive. They're incarcerated, but they're still a part of the community, and they want that connection. The whole concept is to give back to their community."

Soledad staff and inmates recognized that arthritis was the most common cause of disability, affecting millions. Many participants knew someone who has been affected by arthritis, so their participation was very personal.

The inmate walkers volunteered to make a difference by participating in the nationwide movement led by the Arthritis Foundation to encourage people to move to prevent arthritis.